

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

---

In re Patent Application of:  
Shuichi WATANABE et al.

Application No.: 10/543,005

Confirmation No.: 2443

Filed: July 22, 2005

Art Unit: 2112

For: ENCODING DEVICE AND METHOD,  
DECODING DEVICE AND METHOD,  
PROGRAM, AND RECORDING MEDIUM

---

Examiner: E.T. Abraham

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated September 4, 2008, the following amendment and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.